

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A video encoder/decoder coupled to a processor, wherein the video
2 encoder/decoder is configured by the processor a first time to encode/decode data in
3 accordance with a first one of a plurality of data compression/decompression standards.

1 2. The video encoder/decoder of claim 1, wherein the video
2 encoder/decoder is configured by the processor a second time only if a second one of the
3 plurality of data compression/decompression standards different from the first one of the
4 plurality of data compression/decompression standards is selected for encoding/decoding.

1 3. The video encoder/decoder of claim 2 wherein the video
2 encoder/decoder is configured by configuring a configuration register disposed within the
3 video encoder/decoder.

1 4. The video encoder/decoder of claim 3 further comprising a memory
2 which stores the configuration data for each of the plurality of the data
3 compression/decompression standards, wherein the processor reads the configuration data
4 from the memory and loads the same into the configuration register.

1 5. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 1 further comprising a vector
2 pipeline unit, the vector pipeline unit further comprising:

3 a run-length decoder which receive data elements of a data vector at its input
4 terminals and decodes and supplies to its output terminals one of the data elements received
5 thereby if the run-length decoder is disabled and a run-length of the data elements received
6 thereby if the run-length decoder is enabled, wherein each data element comprises a plurality
7 of bits.

1 6. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 5 wherein the run-length decoder
2 is disabled if a bit associated therewith in the configuration register is reset.

1 7. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 6 wherein the vector pipeline unit
2 further comprises:

3 an ALU having a plurality of first input terminals which receive the data
4 element supplied thereto by the run-length decoder, a plurality of second input terminals
5 which receive a second data element of the vector and a plurality of output terminals; the
6 ALU to deliver to its output terminals one of a result of a plurality of arithmetic or logic

7 operations performed thereby if the ALU is enabled and the first data element received at its
8 first input terminals if the ALU is disabled.

1 8. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 7 wherein the ALU is disabled if
2 a bit associated therewith in the configuration register is reset.

1 9. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 8, wherein the vector pipeline
2 unit further comprises:

3 a multiplier/divider having a plurality of first input terminals which receive
4 the data supplied to the output terminals of the ALU, a plurality of second input terminals
5 which receive a third data element of the vector, the multiplier/divider to supply to its output
6 terminals a result of one of a plurality of multiplication/division operations performed thereby
7 if the multiplier/divider is enabled and the data received at its plurality of first input terminals
8 if the multiplier/divider is disabled.

10. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 9 wherein the multiplier/divider is
disabled if a bit associated therewith in the configuration register is reset.

11. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 10, wherein the vector pipeline
unit further comprises:

1 a multiplexer having a plurality of first input terminals which receive a fourth
2 data , a plurality of second input terminals which receive the data supplied to the output
3 terminals of multiplier/divider, a third input terminal and a plurality of output terminals,
4 wherein the third input terminal selects and transfers to the multiplexer's output terminals one
5 of the data supplied to the multiplexer by the multiplier/divider and the fourth data.
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12. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 11 wherein the multiplexer
transfers to its output terminals the data supplied thereto by the multiplier/divider if a bit
associated with the multiplexer in the configuration register is reset.

13. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 12, wherein the vector pipeline
unit further comprises:

1 an accumulator having a plurality of first input terminals which receive the
2 data supplied to the multiplexer's output terminals, and a plurality of second input terminals
3 which receive the second data element of the vector, the accumulator to supply to its output
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6 terminals a result of one of a plurality of arithmetic operations performed thereby if the
7 accumulator is enabled and the data received at its plurality of first input terminals if the
8 accumulator is disabled.

1 14. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 13 wherein the accumulator is
2 disabled if a bit associated therewith in the configuration register is reset.

1 15. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 14, wherein the vector pipeline
2 unit further comprises:

3 a barrel shifter having a plurality of first input terminals which receive the
4 data supplied to the output terminals of the accumulator, wherein the barrel shifter right shifts
5 the data it receives at its plurality of first input terminals if the barrel shifter is enabled.

1 16. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 15 wherein the barrel shifter
2 supplies the data it receives at its plurality of first input terminals if the barrel shifter is
3 disabled.

1 17. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 16 wherein the barrel shifter is
2 disabled if a bit associated therewith in the configuration register is reset.

1 18. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 8, wherein the vector pipeline
2 unit further comprises a round logic unit which receives the data supplied thereto by the
3 barrel shifter and rounds the received data to a nearest integer number, wherein the vector
4 pipeline unit further comprises:

5 a round logic unit which receives the data supplied thereto by the barrel
6 shifter and rounds the received data to a nearest integer number if the round logic is enabled,
7 wherein the round logic unit supplies the rounded data to its output terminals.

1 19. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 18, wherein the round logic unit
2 delivers to its output terminals the data supplied thereto by the barrel shifter if the round logic
3 unit is disabled.

1 20. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 19 wherein the round logic unit
2 is disabled if a bit associated therewith in the configuration register is reset.

1 21. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 20, wherein the vector pipeline
2 unit further comprises:

3 a modify logic unit which receives the data supplied thereto by the round
4 logic unit and modifies the received data to one of odd and even number if the modify logic
5 unit is enabled, wherein the modify logic unit supplies the modified data to its output
6 terminals.

1 22. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 21, wherein the modify logic unit
2 delivers to its output terminals the data supplied thereto by the round logic unit if the modify
3 logic unit is disabled.

1 23. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 22 wherein the modify logic unit
2 is enabled or disabled by varying a bit associated therewith in the configuration register.

1 24. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 8, wherein the vector pipeline
2 unit further comprises:

3 a saturate logic unit which receives the data supplied thereto by the modify
4 logic unit, the saturate logic unit to saturate the received data to a saturate high value if the
5 received data is greater than the saturate high value and if the saturate logic unit is enabled,
6 the saturate logic unit to saturate the received data to a saturate low value if the received data
7 is smaller than the saturate low value and if the saturate logic unit is enabled, wherein the
8 saturate logic unit supplies to its output terminals the saturated data.

1 25. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 24 wherein the saturate logic unit
2 supplies to its output terminals data it receives from the output terminals of the modify logic
3 unit if the saturate logic unit is disabled.

1 26. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 25 wherein the saturate logic unit
2 is enabled or disabled by varying a bit associated therewith in the configuration register.

1 27. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 26, wherein the vector pipeline
2 unit further comprises a status register which collects data supplied thereto by the saturate
3 logic unit and supplies the collected data to a processor, if the status register is enabled.

1 28. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 27 wherein the status register is
2 enabled or disabled by varying a bit associated therewith in the configuration register.

1 29. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 8, wherein the vector pipeline
2 unit further comprises a run-length encoder which receives and encodes the run-length of the
3 data that is supplied thereto by the saturate logic unit if the run-length encoder is enabled.

1 30. The video encoder/decoder of Claim 27 wherein the run-length
2 encoder is enabled or disabled by varying a bit associated therewith in the configuration
3 register.

1 31. A method of encoding/decoding video data, the method comprising
2 the acts of:

3 coupling a processor to a video encoder/decoder;

4 configuring the encoder/decoder via the processor a first time to

5 encode/decode data in accordance with a first one of a plurality of data
6 compression/decompression standards; wherein after the video encoder/decoder is configured
it encodes/decodes data according to the first compression/decompression standard.

1 32. The method of Claim 31 further comprising the act of:

2 configuring the encoder/decoder via the processor a second time only if a

3 second one of the plurality of data compression/decompression standards different from the
4 first one of the plurality of data compression/decompression standards is selected; wherein
5 after the video encoder/decoder is configured the second time it encodes/decodes data
6 according to the second one of the plurality of data compression/decompression standards.

1 33. The method of Claim 32 further comprising the act of:

2 configuring the encoder/decoder by configuring a configuration register

3 disposed therein.

1 34. The method of Claim 33 further comprising the act of:

2 storing the configuration data for each of the plurality of compression

3 standards in a memory.

1 35. The method of Claim 34 further comprising the acts of:

2 reading the configuration data stored in the memory; and

3 loading the configuration data read from the memory into the configuration
4 register.

1 36. The method of Claim 34 wherein the act of storing the configuration
2 data for each of the plurality of compression standards in a memory includes the act of
3 storing the configuration data for each of the plurality of compression standards in a memory
4 that is a ROM.